

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2861**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Pescetti**

February 25, 2002

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An act to amend Section 614 of the Public Resources Code, relating to conservation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2861, as introduced, Pescetti. Resource Conservation Districts.

Under existing law, the Department of Conservation is required to conduct specified studies on resource conservation districts. Existing law requires the department to report the results of a study on resource conservation districts to the Legislature on or before December 1, 1989. Existing law further requires the department to provide soil advisory services to local governments, landowners, farmers and ranchers, resource conservation districts, and the general public.

This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change in the provisions described in the above paragraph.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 614 of the Public Resources Code is  
2 amended to read:  
3 614. (a) In order to implement the soil conservation plan  
4 which is adopted by the soil conservation committee, the  
5 department shall conduct a study and propose an implementation

1 strategy to meet the intent of the plan. The study shall include, but  
2 not be limited to, all of the following:

3 (1) An assessment of the structural and policy changes needed  
4 in the department to carry out the soil conservation plan.

5 (2) A review of the provisions of Division 9 (commencing with  
6 Section 9000) for the purposes of providing a framework for soil  
7 conservation administration at the state and local levels.

8 (3) Recommendations on how the department can best deliver  
9 soil conservation services.

10 The department shall report the results of this study to the  
11 Legislature on or before December 1, 1988.

12 (b) The department shall conduct a study of resource  
13 conservation districts in California. The study shall include, but  
14 not be limited to, all of the following:

15 (1) A review of the provisions of Division 9 (commencing with  
16 Section 9000) to determine the changes in policy and structure  
17 necessary to enable resource conservation districts to better  
18 provide soil conservation assistance.

19 (2) Recommendations on the consolidation and reorganization  
20 of resource conservation districts.

21 The department shall report the result of this study to the  
22 Legislature on or before December 1, 1989.

23 (c) The department shall provide soil conservation advisory  
24 services to local governments, land owners, farmers and ranchers,  
25 resource conservation districts, and the general public. The  
26 services shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

27 (1) State level liaison with the resource conservation districts.

28 (2) Review of environmental impact reports as required under  
29 the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13  
30 (commencing with Section 21000)).

31 (3) Provision of information on the soil conservation  
32 components of the 1985 Food Security Act.

33 (4) Assistance to local governments on the development of soil  
34 conservation guidelines for general plans.

35 (5) Responding to inquiries from the general public.

36 From funds appropriated for purposes of this section, an  
37 amount, not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), shall be  
38 utilized for the purposes of this subdivision.